

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF  
RESTIVENESS AND RELOCATION OF OIL COMPANIES FROM WARRI AND  
ENVIRONS**

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**Abstract**

The discovery of natural resource in Warri Metropolis and the presence of oil companies improved socio-economic activities in the region. This enhanced socio-economic standard of living of the people of Warri and Delta State in general. Never the less, these benefits are short lived with the relocation of oil companies. Relocation was subject to incessant activities of youth militias (hostility) and ethnic rivalry. The region now experiences retrogression in an erstwhile booming economy. This heightened the level of poverty, tension, psychological trauma and criminality in the region. Although several researches have evaluated the benefits and effects of oil companies in the region, none have documented the socio-economic, psychological and health implications of relocation of oil companies from Warri and its environs. Thus, this study highlighted the socio-economic, psychological and health implications of oil companies' relocation from Warri and its environs. The functionalist, social action, strain and conflict theory was used in the explanation of core variables. Data collection was triangulated with the use of in-depth interview, key informant and questionnaire. Data was analyzed using chi square and cross tabulations. Finding revealed that, frequent inter/intra communal crises and hostility arising from multiple demands of youth militias popularly known as "deve boys" were major cause for the relocation of oil companies from Warri. This relocation has increased hardships, trauma and level of criminality such as robbery, rape, cybercrime popularly known as yahoo, "gang starism" and harlotry. The study concludes that the presence of oil companies if well managed was more of a blessing than a curse. It therefore recommends that measures be put in place for reinjection of multi-national companies into the region to revamp the socioeconomic activities and better the socio-economic and health conditions of the people in the region.

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**Keywords:** Socioeconomic, restiveness, psychological implications, health implications, relocation, Oil companies

## **Introduction**

Nigeria is blessed with rich human and natural resource. It is an oil rich country that depends on oil revenue for the biggest aspect of its foreign exchange earnings. Largest oil deposits are found in the Niger Delta region of which Warri is a part of. This has lunched and placed Niger Delta perhaps Warri in the world map as it produces majority of the country oil wealth. Oil was discovered in Nigeria at Oloibiri oil field on Sunday 15 January 1956 by Shell Darcy. This lunched the region into limelight as a Petro state. Since 1956, oil discovery and exploration has spread to other communities which are grouped among the Niger Delta.

However, despite the huge amount of revenue which are derived from the region, the rural community dwellers have not fully enjoyed the dividends of oil exploration in the phase of environmental degradation, alienation and deprivation. The people of Warri live in abject poverty as they are alienated from their source of livelihood. This hardship is further complicated by the relocation of its corporate head quarter/office from Warri while exploration of oil continued in the community. In the past, few rural dwellers benefited as they were employed as low paid workers in the company. The multinational companies also make payment of royalty to Delta State government. With its relocation, these benefits have been truncated. This has heightened the level of hardship and criminality in the area. The psychological trauma of fear of the unknown leave majority on health conditions such as high blood pressure and insomnia.

Although various authorities and concerned persons have probed the relocation of Shell head office from Warri to Lagos, much has not been achieved (Ripples 2018). The situation has remained unchanged or unabated till date.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Warri is naturally blest with rich mineral resource. This has attracted the attention of oil multinational companies to the Area for the purpose of exploration of the resources. Despite the exploration of rich oil resource in the Niger Delta (Warri), the region has remained marginalized, alienated and underdeveloped (Ikenyei 2022). This has led to agitations and confrontation between the rural dwellers in the oil rich communities, the oil companies and the federal government. Warri community leaders have made frantic effort to draw the attention of the oil companies and the government; the gestures have ended in futility. Failure to provide corporate social responsibility while doing business in the region led the youths to initiating the use of unconventional means to gain a fair share in their oil rich resources. Aggrieved youths thus involve in bunkering activities and collection of multiple levies called "deve" by affected groups. In extreme cases, some rich oil workers have been kidnapped to which they are expected to pay amount as ransom before their release.

Owing to the above situation, Shell Petroleum Development Company in 2013 moved its Western operational Headquarters from Warri to Lagos majorly due to alleged hostility against the company and communal crises in Warri. It claimed that the situation was adversely affecting the effectiveness of its operation in the region. Ijaw youths and

concerns person have made attempt for the return of SPDC to no avail (Omonigho 20017 and Ripples 2018). The money that is supposed to accrue to Delta state is now lost to other region, thus boosting their internally generated revenue. The presence of oil multinationals did not only boost the revenue base of the Warri people but it reduced illegal activities and youth restiveness in the region (Omonigho 20017).

The host communities are averse to the relocation of SPDC from Warri (Ibid). With this relocation, the people are now exposed to many hardships and health challenges. Presently, economic activities have retrogressed and there is high rate of crime in the locality. The erstwhile office situated in Warri cushion the suffering of "poorly" paid employed youths and their dependents. Continued oil exploration in Warri and the relocation of its head quarter from Warri have adverse effect on health and the socio-economic life of the people of the most affected oil producing communities. There is presently accumulation of arms and ammunition and underdevelopment. Failure of oil multinationals to deliver their social responsibilities mandate and the mode of compensation are the major cause of crises in Warri. Relocation and government apathy create disenchanting spirit, disaffection and distrust. Agitations arose due to feelings that proceeds from oil does not truly reflect the money made from the region (Eduvwie 2021).

These situations have deepened the sufferings of the people. Over the years, the place is neglected of industrial development, good or motorable roads, constant electricity power supply, portable pipe borne water and other infrastructural development that should have contributed to growth and development. Woeful abandonment of projects by oil companies and the government pronounced its negligence and this heightened the pains of the people.

Shell was a major player in Delta state economy as they pay tax into the state coffers. While the presence of Shell led to emergences of several ancillary companies providing an array of services, the relocation of its headquarters had led to closure of small scale enterprises, thus leading to loss of jobs and economic downturn in the state. It is believed that the return of the head quarter of SPDC to Warri will ensure that the expected corporate social responsibility and free medical outreach which the region should or once enjoy from the company will be better achieved. It is the right of the people for continued participation in the process that involved the exploration of the natural resource from their land.

Choosing Warri as the research setting was born out of the peculiar challenges which beset the region due to the relocation of Oil Company from the area. Economic life in the area have plummeted and grinding hardship is being experienced in the region. Thus, the research setting was considered appropriate because of the predominant activities of oil merchants and the outcome of their activities which destroys life and peaceful co-existence in the area. Erstwhile communities which lived in harmony have been torn apart by the presence of oil companies. The crises are further worsened by relocation of Oil Company. Choosing the research site is also because of the industrial scale deforestation

activities which led to the degradation of their ecology which formerly sustained their life.

Although several studies have examined the benefits and effects of oil exploration in the region, none has explored the socioeconomic and health implications of relocation of oil companies from Warri. Thus, this study, using three key research questions explored the socioeconomic and health implications of relocation of oil companies from Warri.

### **Theoretical framework**

The functionalist, social action, strain and conflict theory were employed in the explanation of the problem under study. While the functionalist theory addressed the importance of the presence of oil companies and their headquarters in Warri, the social action theory looks at the intent of the various actors and the consequences of their action. The strained theory harnessed the challenges of the oil company which led to their relocation. Strain theory also analyzed the difficulties encountered by the community members due to oil exploration activities and subsequently the relocation of the shell operative headquarters from Warri.

Talcott person (1951) amongst other functionalist scholars is of the view that the whole system works for the smooth running of the society. A dysfunctional aspect of the society affects the whole system. Thus, all parts must work concomitantly for the benefit of the whole. The presence of Oil Company with all thing being equal, is supposed to boost the Delta state economy and better the lives of members of oil-bearing community. Functionalist perspective on a large scale analyzed the patterns of society. The proponents of this theory in the likes of Talcott Parson and Emile Durkheim are of the view that social system is made up of interrelated parts. When working properly, each part fulfills a function that contributes to the systems stability. The main idea is that society is made of interrelated parts that work together. Auguste Comte and Spencer viewed society as a kind of living organisms (Ikenyei 2020). Just as the animals' organs function together, so do human society. Also, Emile Durkheim believed that society is composed of many parts. If it must work well, all its parts must fulfill their function. According to the proponents, if society must function smoothly, its parts must work together in harmony. A deficiency in one-part leads to malfunction of the whole system. (Ikenyei 2023). Thus, the crises between the host community and oil multinationals seem to emerge from disagreement and failure to fulfill its promises on the part of the oil company and the government. Thus, criminal activities become the order of the day to benefit from the oil rich fortune (Ikenyei& Lawal 2019 and Ikenyei&Efebe2020).

Weber's social action theory holds that action often comes with subjective meanings for the actor (Marshall, 1998 and Ikenyei 2022). Action theorists consider human actions as the major object of human interaction (Shapovalova et al., 2011; Hogan, 2009). Behaviors are molded by past or present experiences and/or expectations (Ikenyei2022). It is therefore evident that the actions of the community youths emerged as a result of the actions and inactions of the oil companies and the Federal government. On the other

hand, the actions of the oil multinationals were based on their experiences of multiple extortion of "deve" levies, hostilities-kidnappings and vandalization of oil equipment. It has been argued that people's rights are violated because the citizens are oblivious of their rights. Authorities and citizens allude meanings to their experiences and, thus, act in tandem with their social orientation and life experiences. Thus, community members and oil workers have acted in one way or the other, based on their experiences. Both have acted based on perceived threat and self-interest (Ikenyei 2017). It is therefore important that both parties and the Federal government should act for the mutual benefits of all parties involved. In this study, it means that values attached to law and respect for human rights are informed by unfolding actions within the context of life experiences and economic standing. Similarly, whether these actions are "mere actions" or "social actions" will depend strongly on the nature and forms of meanings which actors attach to the natural resources, constituted authorities, law, and human rights along with their life chances and experiences.

Following Weber's analogy, the violations of human rights, whether intended or unintended, have serious impacts on socio-economic activities and health of the people (Johnston et al., 2009; Rubenson, 2002; Stanford Encyclopedia on Human Rights, 2017). According to Kenyon, Forman, and Brolan, 2018 and O'malley, 1999, depriving the majority of Africans of most basic human rights including civil, political, social, and economic rights affects their mental wellbeing. Violations "induce post-traumatic stress disorder". Exposure to trauma, "leads to sleep disorders, sexual dysfunction, chronic irritability, physical illness and a disruption of interpersonal relations and occupational, family and social functioning" (Ikenyei 2022). Victims and their significant others suffer more health challenges. Victims hallucinate, as they suffer memory loss and emotional numbness (ibid).

Social strain theory emphasized the challenges the oil company face while carrying out their duties and on the other hand, the challenges faced by the youths which pushes them to take to crime by using unconventional means to reach their conventional goals. Since they perceive that oil companies have not given them what is commensurate to the resources explored from their environment coupled with degraded environment and loss of farm lands, they embark on oil bunkering and kidnapping of oil workers as well as destruction of oil installations to register their grievances and as well have a fair share in their God given resources. On the other hand, the oil companies have experience too many hostilities, this is responsible for their actions amongst which is the relocation of its head quarter from Warri and retrenchment of its workers. On the whole, the action of both parties is evidenced in the misgivings suffered. It is therefore expected that both parties play their roles for the mutual benefits. Exploitation and alienations should be jettisoned. Where proper remuneration is given due considerations, satisfied youths may not be hostile as it was felt prior to the relocation of the oil headquarter.

On the other hand, the conflict theorists amongst whom is Karl Marx opined that different people struggle for scarce resources. Marx discovered the exploitation of the poor by the rich. Thus, the oil multinationals and the Federal government engaged in the

exploration and exploitation of the natural resources to the detriment of the people. The host community have endured marginalization to the extent that they can no longer stomach the pain. Hence, the agitation and confrontation follow. The promises made have not be met. According to the theory of unfulfilled rising expectations, the endurance of the host communities has reached its threshold. The hostilities arose out of the unfulfilled expectations.

### **Materials and Methods**

The study is exploratory and descriptive using cross sectional design to study the socioeconomic and health implications of relocation of oil multinational company from Warri. It highlighted the unfulfilled expectation on the part of members of the host communities, human right violation, alienation and exploitation as well as abandonment by concerned authorities. Across sectional design is adopted because data was collected from different respondents with heterogenous but similar socio-demographic characteristics at a single point in time. A robust data that explained the plight of concerned persons under research was carried out in April, 2023.

### **Study Area**

The study was located in Warri, which is a key part of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Warri is in Delta state whose capital is Asaba. "About one third of the land area which is located in wetland contains the third largest mangrove swamp forest in the world. Warri with numerous creeks was chosen as the research area in the Niger Delta region. Choosing this community was due to the high level of oil exploration which degrades their environment causing decay thus predisposing the people to health challenges" (Ikenyei 2016). The study was carried out amongst oil bearing communities in Warri including the Ogonu where the erstwhile headquarter of oil company was located.

The "city Warri has a unique history that has not been documented well enough by historians. The name Warri was applicable to the part now called Delta State under the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Its boundary in the North east was Nsukwa/Iseagu creek near Kwale and Aboh, Forcados River in the South east and Jaieson creek in the South west. This was later changed to Delta province". Warri is one of the major hubs of petroleum activities and businesses in the Southern Nigeria. It is a commercial city of Delta State and the city is one of the cosmopolitan cities in southern Nigeria comprising those who originally are the indigene of the city. They are the Itsekiri, Urhobo and Ijaw people. Warri is predominantly Christian with a mixture of numerous African traditional religions like most of the Southern Nigeria. Although there are varieties of dialects, the common language in the region is Urhobo language. The city is known nationwide for its unique Pidgin English" (Ikenyei 2016).

Choosing warri as the research setting was born out of the peculiar challenges which beset the region due to the relocation of oil company from the area. Economic life in the area have plummeted and grinding hardship is being experienced in the region. Thus, the research setting was considered appropriate because of the predominant activities of oil merchants and the outcome of their activities which destroys life and peaceful co-

existence in the area. Erstwhile communities which lived in harmony have been torn apart by the presence of oil companies. The crises are further worsened by relocation of Oil Company. Choosing the research site is also because of the industrial scale deforestation activities which led to the degradation of their ecology which were basic means of sustaining life and socio-economic activities.

### Study population

The total study population for Warri according to population census of 2006 was 311,970 (2006 National Population Census). Never the less, the 2022 projection was estimated to be 210, 189 (2022 National Population projection). Out of this population, 335 respondents were sampled across the selected oil-bearing communities in Warri plus Ogonu area where the head office was located. The study population included household heads, community leaders, chiefs, oil workers, market women, youths and farmers.

### Method of data collection

Instrument for data collection was triangulated. Going by this, both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection was used in data gathering. The questionnaire, key informant and in-depth interview were used in data collection. A total of 300 questionnaires was issued to respondents in the study area. A total of 35 in-depth interviews was granted. Thus, total respondents were 335. The respondents who were age 18 and above and were resident in the research area for at least 10 years was co-opted as samples for data collection.

### Method of data analysis

For data analyses, quantitative data were analyzed using the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 23. The analysis was categorized into three levels. The univariate analysis described vividly the statistical relevance of the frequency distribution of participants according to their socio-demographic characteristics. Bivariate analysis with the use of a chi-square test was adopted to show the correlations between the relocation of oil companies and the hardship felt in Warri and environs rights. Correlational analysis detailed the relationship that exists between the oil exploration, unfulfilled rising expectations, relocation and sustenance of livelihood, peace and wellness. A thematic extraction method was used in the analysis of qualitative data, which were transcribed verbatim and related accordingly. Deductive extractions of information grouped responses from the interviews based on the objectives of the study, and these responses which were classified into themes were subjected to percentage tabulation analyses. Referencing in the body of the work for qualitative data appeared as gender and age, for example: M, 40 years +.

### Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.

S/N	VARIABLE LABEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Age		
	18-30	72	21.5
	31-43	61	18.3

	44-55	87	25.9
	56-68	59	17.6
	68-above	56	16.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Gender</b>		
	Male	169	50.4
	Female	166	49.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Education</b>		
	Primary	74	22.1
	Secondary	62	18.5
	B.Sc	85	25.4
	Post graduate	58	17.3
	Others	56	16.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Income</b>		
	10-30	104	31.1
	31-50	85	25.4
	51-80	62	18.5
	81-110	58	17.3
	111-above	26	7.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Farmer	114	34.1
	Business	85	25.4
	Civil servant	62	18.5
	Doctors	58	17.3
	Others	16	4.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Religion</b>		
	Christian	182	54.3
	Muslim	72	21.5
	Traditionalist	60	17.9
	Atheist	18	5.4
	Others	3	0.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Marital status</b>		
	Single	182	54.3
	Married	102	30.4
	Divorced	20	5.9
	Separated	18	5.4
	Cohabiting	13	3.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>



### Analysis of Research Questions

#### Research Question 1: What are the benefits of the presence of Oil Company in your community?

According to (98%) respondents, the presence of Oil Company brought many positive developments amongst which are;

1. **Pipe borne water**; the presence of Oil Company brought portable water. Majority of the bore holes where the community members fetch water were initiated by Oil Company. Digging of bore holes and other means of getting water was initiated as part of their social responsibility for the community.

2. **Good schools**; also, the presence of oil company according to (98%) respondents led to the establishment of good schools in Warri and environ. Many community members enrolled their children in schools run by oil company. Thus, they attended schools alongside the children of the middle and high class. Also, many high standard private schools was established and blocks of class room donated for the community to enhance educational standards of the people. Thus, many children raised in Warri are on the average sound academically.

3. **Security**: The presence of Oil Company tightened the security level of the community. Because oil workers want to enjoy relative peace, security and freedom, they employed the services of heavily armed men (uniform men) to guild them. In the process, surrounding community people who are residents in the community enjoyed maximum security. Lives and properties were secured and there was a boom in economic activities.

4. **Better market**: the presence oil company created a good market within their community of operations. They are often said to be the better buyers as they barely price commodities. They purchase things at a relatively higher rate which is a little bit higher than what the ordinary person will buy.

5. **Good Road networking**: According to (98%) respondents, the presence of oil company led to award of good construction of roads around most oil-bearing communities. They created access roads and there was good road network within their community of operations.

6. **Award of scholarships**: member of oil-bearing communities enjoyed award of scholarships to any level of educational studies. Many Delta State origins have benefitted from various cadres of scholarships and free education offered by the oil companies.

7. **Health care**: a lot of families have benefitted from medical services offered by Oil Company. From time to time, oil companies initiate health care out reach. Majority have benefitted from this medical benevolence of oil companies.

**Monthly remuneration**: key informant and (98%) respondents are of the view that just because they are members of oil-bearing communities, most youths have had their account credited every month even while doing nothing. Nothing feels like enjoying free money. Many of the chiefs and youth live in affluence courtesy of the royalties coming from oil companies in Warri.

In all, the presence of Oil Company heralds good tidings for both men and women. It liberated the indigenes from poverty and chronic suffering. Majority of the men were gainfully employed. Many of Warri women got married to rich oil workers. They lived in affluence and enjoyed life above an average Nigerian.

**Research Question 2: What are the dangers of the presences oil companies in your community**

**1. Loss of farm lands:** according to (89%) respondents, one of the biggest challenge in the presence of oil company is the loss of farm lands. According to a key informant, "once oil is discovered in you land; it is conscripted from the owner with little or no compensation". As a result of this, many families have lost their lands (source of livelihood) whether residential or farm lands to government who later hand it over to oil company. This has grave implications on the people. This is because the people are mainly farmers and artisans whose means of livelihood is basically dependent on farm lands. Thus, its removal means hunger and starvation for the poor farmer and his/her family. Never the less, even when compensation is paid, it does not commensurate with the value of the land taken away. And so, the poor farmer lives in abject poverty for the rest of the days he/she will live on earth.

**2. Environmental degradation:** another most dangerous implication of the presence of Oil Company is pollution of farm lands and water bodies. Frequent oil spillage that are as a result of dilapidating equipment and bunkering activities leads to the pollution of lands and the destruction of aquatic animals. In most cases, the fishes, yams and cassava which the people rely on for survival are destroyed by oil spills. The river constitute pipe born water ,refrigerator, bath room and Jacuzzis for majority of the people. Oil spillage prevents the people from accessing and enjoying these services rendered by their river and forest.

**3. Crime:** According to (89%) respondents, there is high-rate of crime in most oil-bearing communities. The presence of Oil Company attracted all manners of person to the community, especially those who are in search of greener pastures. The influx of all kinds of personality increased the rate of crime committed in Warri and environ. The people take to crime to benefit from the rich resource found in their community.

**4. Infidelity of women:** according to a key informant, "the presence of oil company was seen as a curse by many who lost their beautiful wives and daughters to oil workers". Majority of the women were reported to be having illicit affairs with oil workers even though they were married. They get enticed with huge amount of money and other material things which their husband many not be able to afford. The young girls are not left out as majority have been molested, heartbroken and abandoned by oil workers.

**Research Question 3: What are the socio-economic implications of relocation of Oil Company from Warri.**

**Unemployment:** According to (97%) respondents, the level of unemployment is so high with the relocation of oil company from Warri. The few that were employed lost their job due to relocation of Oil Company which was one of the major employers in Warri. A key informant revealed that, with the relocation of oil companies, (34%) of the people formally employed were relieved of their jobs.

**Robbery:** As majority who were previously employed lose their job, they resolve to arm robbery to survive the unbearable conditions. A total of (47%) respondent reported that robbery have become a daily occurrence in the community. A key informant revealed that "breaking and entry" have become frequent in the community. While farmers and business men and women go about doing their normal daily activities, a lot of houses are been

burgled. At night stores with valuable goods are broken into and goods worth millions are catered away. This set the community backward as these victims and other small business owners relocate from the community.

**Rape:** One of the most disturbing social problems arising from oil company relocation is increasing numbers of rape cases. A total of (34%) revealed that many people who cannot control their emotional desires in the presence of hardship resolve to raping their wards, daughters, close acquaintance, friends and strangers alike. A lot of persons are psychologically traumatized with this recent event/development.

**Prostitution:** Another important problem that calls for solution is increasing numbers of those who resolve to prostitution as commercial sex worker. A total of (39%) respondent and a key informant revealed that, most community girls especially young ones but not with the exclusion of the married ones are now into prostitution as a means of surviving the harsh economic condition.

**Criminality:** according to (97%) the level of crime is so high. This is so according to Robert K Merton in his strain theory, whether legitimate means of attaining goals is blocked, the unconventional means becomes the way out. This is in tandem with findings of Ikenyei (2017). Various forms of crimes such as ritual killing and obtaining by deception are perpetrated in the community.

**Bribery and corruption:** according to (98%) respondents, bribery and corruption is at its peak.

**Internet fraud popularly known as Yahoo:** According to (91%) respondents, many youths including boys and girls are now involved in internet fraud popularly known as yahoo or yahoo plus. They now defraud innocent people of their hard-earned money. To a key informant, majority who are into fraudulent internet crimes also engage in ritual killing. A sacrifice usually done to cover their deeds, appease the gods, deceive their clients and/or to multiply their wealth. They use any body that is disposed to them. Because of this, many young girls have been killed and their vital organs removed from them. Some are left as an insane person to roam the street. Many destinies have been destroyed.

**Oil company relocation presents and predicts** no hope for the future for the youths. They resolve to crime. Society has laid down goals, roles and expectations as well as the means. When they cannot achieve the legitimate goal through legitimate means, they device unconventional means which are often criminal in nature.

**Hunger:** according to (98%) respondents, most glaring problem or effect of relocation of Oil Company is grinding hunger in the community. With layoffs and increase in the number of polluted farm lands by oil spills, a lot of families can no longer afford three square meals. Balance diet has become a mirage.

**Increase in mother and child mortality:** there is increase in the number of deaths recorded among mother and child especially at child birth. This incident is linked to the relocation, retrenchment and communal crises. Because they are not gainfully employed, obtaining regular balanced diet is utopian. They suffer more health challenges when there is little or no money to cure or prevent disease. Thus, death rate and co-genital diseases and deformities which are fatal in nature become wide spread amongst members of Warri and neighboring communities. For health-related issues, the above condition increased the numbers of health problems found in the community. There is negligence

and abandonment of the aged by youths who are busy pursuing their goals to meet up with their daily needs in the phase of block means.

**Psychological problem**, with the relocation (97%) respondents revealed that, many people who are bread winners in their lost their jobs. The stress of meeting up with daily needs and re-engagement in the phase of fear of the unknown due to the activities of unscrupulous persons, subject the people to trauma and other degenerative psychological and health problems.

Following respondents' views which are in tandem with Weber's analogy, the violations of human rights, whether intended or unintended, have serious impacts on socio-economic activities and health of the people (Johnston et al., 2009; Rubenson, 2002; Stanford Encyclopedia on Human Rights, 2017). According to Kenyon, Forman, and Brolan, 2018 and O'malley, 1999, depriving the majority of Africans of most basic human rights including civil, political, social, and economic rights affects their mental wellbeing. Violations "induce psychological problem such as post-traumatic stress disorder". Exposure to trauma "leads to sleep disorders, sexual dysfunction, chronic irritability, physical illness and a disruption of interpersonal relations and occupational, family and social functioning" (Ikenyei 2022). Victims and their significant others suffer more health challenges. Victims hallucinate, as they suffer memory loss and emotional numbness (ibid).

**Table 2. Causes of Conflict between host communities and oil companies**

S/ N	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Access to farm lands	93	27.7
2	Contamination of river	58	17.3
3	Destruction of crops	97	28.9
4	Molestation of animals	5	1.5
5	Relocation of oil company head quarters	102	30.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table above, a total of (27.7%) respondents revealed that series of conflict inwarri and environs is resource-based conflict. This is in tandem with the findings of Ikenyei(Ikenyei2020). According to a key informant, government and oil multinationals are in constant violent conflict over quest for increased need for access to oil fields-lands. According to (17.3%) respondents, while farmers look for expansion of farmland to grow their crops, oil companies who are also in search of mineral resources destroy their farm produce as they search and install their oil drilling equipment. Total of (28.9.%) respondents revealed that the activities of oil workers and bunkers leads to contamination of community only source of water supply. This poses a great danger to the health of community members. A total of (1.5%) respondents revealed that, the presence of Oil Company and their activities affect free range rearing of their animals. Significantly, a total of (30.4%) were of the view that relocation of Oil Company is the major cause of the conflict between Oil Company, youths and other members of the host communities. According to an informant:

The aftermath of the farmers versus expatriate conflicts has cost Delta State especially Warri economy more than (\$3m)

loss between 2013-2017. It has led to retrogression in economic/market activities, development and economic growth. By killing both farmers and non-farmers, destroying productive assets, preventing trade, deterring investment, and eroding trust between markets actors, large sums of money is lost. This recent development heightened the security challenge and insurgency of kidnapping which was mediated by the presence of oil companies and their heavily armed security/uniform men. Unlike other crisis which is concentrated on a fraction of the community, hosts community and oil multinational company conflict affected many people in Warri in particular and Delta State in General. Only few persons are not affected by the crises and relocation of oil Company from Warri. **IDI, Male, 2023**

From the above responds, it is obvious that the relocation of Oil Company has caused a lot of problem in warri and environs.

### **Summary**

The study examined the socio-economic and health implications of oil company relocation from Warri. Functionalist, social strain, conflict theories was used in the explanation of core variables. There was triangulation of research instruments. Both qualitative and quantitative tools were used in data gathering. Data was analyzed using chi-square, tables and thematic extraction of responses. Although, the presence of Oil Company comes with so much disadvantages, it is believed that the presence of Oil Company is more a blessing than a curse if well managed. The study revealed that the presence of Oil Company attracted many other smaller companies which employed large numbers of people who were jobless. They provided pine borne water, good roads, better market, scholarships and medical care amongst others. Never the less, despite these benefits, its presence and relocation caused the community a lot of hardships. These mention incidents heightened retrogression and level of criminality in Warri and envrion. There is wide spread of robbery, rape, hunger and prostitution amongst others. Respondents believed that one of the major solutions to these problems is for concerned authorities to make frantic effort to ensure that oil companies return to Warri, Delta State. In line with this, oil companies should be committed to their social responsibility redemption. By this, there be little or no record of hostility.

### **Contributions to knowledge**

The research richly contributes to the body of knowledge on the impact of oil exploration, environmental degradation, human rights violations in relation to health and social relationship and relocation of oil multinational from Warri. It improves literature availability in the area of oil exploration, relocation, health and human rights. It makes available data on implications of oil company relocation from Warri as there appear to be little or no empirical studies in this regard as at the time of this research.

It elaborates the context of human rights violations in relation to social responsibility. It clarifies resource exploitation, which violates human rights in Warri. It investigates

the influence of exploitation on traditional human rights norms vis-à-vis violations. It highlights the need to enshrine human rights and corporate responsibility in agreement treatise between Nigerian government and oil multinational.

### **Conclusion**

Oil Company is more of a blessing than a curse. Relocation was alleged to be due to hostility on the part of the community members. On the other hand, the hostility is due to failed promises, unfulfilled expectations and non-redemption of social responsibility on the part of the oil company. On the whole, the action of both parties is evidenced in the misgivings suffered. It is therefore expected that both parties play their roles for their mutual benefits. Exploitation and alienations should be jettisoned. Where proper remuneration is given due considerations, satisfied youths may not be hostile as it was felt prior to the relocation of the oil headquarter.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the study recommends that concerned authority should make frantic effort to secure the right of the community members. Government should quell internal crises and ensure that oil companies return to Warri. This is to rejuvenate economic activities and to revamp the Warri economy. Oil Company on their part should fulfill or perform their social responsibility duties judiciously. And warring communities should seize fire. Youths should be trained for gainfully employment.

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